(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are looking forward to implement such proposals to promote India to new countries as a tourist destination; and

(d) if so, the details of the groundwork prepared therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) With a view to promote cultural tourism in the overseas markets, the Government as a part of its on going promotional activities organises/ supports cultural/folklore programmes. This is a routine activity undertaken in both existing and new potential markets.

Recovery in Tourism Activities

728. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been some recovery in tourism activities;

(b) if so, whether leading hotels, airports and tourist spots have shown in the months of June, 2002 onwards that foreign tourists feel safe in India;

(c) if so, to what extent tourist arrivals from June, 2002 onwards have picked up; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to attract more foreign tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) There has been a positive growth of 16.8 per cent in foreign tourist arrivals in the month of October, 2002 as compared to October, 2001.

(b) According to a survey report released in the month of June, 2002 by the Hotel Association of India, majority of the tourist did not perceive any threat to their safety & security and preferred air travel in India only on account of safety.

(c) The tourist arrivals are estimated to have increased from 143100 in June, 2002 to 212191 in October, 2002.

(d) The Department of Tourism has the following short-term and long-term plans to make tourism more attractive and thereby attracting more foreign tourists in the country.

- Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity.
- Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination.
- Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements.
- Creation of world class infrastructure.
- Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes.
- Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism.
- Attention to civilisational issues and issues pertaining to civil administration, good governance and also of social and cultural values.
- Development of tourism circuits and improvement of wayside amenities to facilitate growth in domestic tourism.

Renovation of Tourist spots in NE region

729. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the tourist spots now existing in different States of the North-Eastern region;

(b) the details of these spots which are based on religious background and also on other aspects;

(c) whether there are new projects on tourism under consideration with the State wise list of projects;

(d) the decision of Government regarding new projects and the sanction of funds, if any; and

(e) the sanction of funds in details for renovation and development of the existing tourist spots?